

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Please keep in mind that your duty is to regulate the airwaves in the PUBLIC interest. The current trend of media consolidation is not serving that interest and has resulted in a monolithic chorus of news voices, or as Wolf Blitzer recently copped to – a kind of 'group think.' Diversity in ownership will result in diversity in points of view and more competition for news stories and real investigative reporting.